

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

use of teachers, each chapter being provided with a series of questions which clearly suggest others.

## THE LATE BISHOP JAMES.

**THE LIFE OF EDMUND S. JAMES,** D. D., LL. D., Senator from N. Y., The Methodist Episcopal Church. By HENRY B. RIDGWAY, D. D. 12mo. pp. 428. New-York: Phillips & Hunt.

The itinerant system, characteristic of all the branches of the great Methodist family, is carried to its extreme in the life of a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His field of service is bounded by the limits of no see or diocese; he is practically one of a board of superintendents which has general charge of the interests of the whole Church. While the preacher changes his parish every one, two or three years, usually within the limits of a single annual conference, the Bishop moves from conference to conference in rapid succession, and in the course of a single year may be called to preside at points most remote from each other within the United States, and even over mission conferences in Germany, India, China and Japan. He may truly repeat the words of the founder of his Church: "The world is my parish."

While presiding over the several annual conferences it is his duty to become personally familiar with the capabilities and peculiarities of each preacher and the requirements of each congregation, in order that appointments may be made with the highest wisdom. Thus a Methodist Bishop, after many years of service, becomes intimately acquainted with the work of the whole church, and personally known to most of its preachers and a large number of its lay members. A record of his official life is, therefore, in a large sense a history of the church for the period it covers.

Bishop James had been a preacher for forty-six years and a bishop for thirty-two years when he died at his home in this city in September, 1876. Starting in life with only a district school education, beginning to teach at the age of seventeen and educating himself while he taught others—first from the school room desk and then from the pulpit—he so "impressed the whole church with his piety, eloquence and wisdom" that at the early age of thirty-seven he was elected to the highest office of the church by the General Conference assembled in New-York in 1844. He was not a member of that body and "had had no opportunity of impressing the conference, either in open session or in committee, and his election seems to have been wholly due to the opinion which the members had formed of his character and work." Henceforth," his biographer adds, "for thirty-two years he was to be a wanderer over the earth, travelling longer distances, enduring longer absences from home and performing more official work than had then fallen to any one of his calling since the apostle age."

Bishop James's home was in New-York, and here it was that he passed the brief intervals of rest between his long journeys. It was while pastor of the church to which the members of his family belonged that Dr. Ridgway formed the warm personal attachment for the resident bishop which is in the line of the teachings which have been reiterated in the columns of THE TRIBUNE. If suicide was spoken of as a crime—a cowardly crime—not only against society, but against the near friends and relatives of the criminal, who are made to bear a needless burden of sorrow and calamity; and if it were spoken of as a crime not only in coroners' verdicts, but everywhere and always, it would to a certain extent be made odious, and persons would shrink from the disgrace of having committed the felony. In the prevailing tenderness and sympathy expressed for the dead a premium is put upon self-murder, and silly souls may be seduced into committing the crime in the hope of being glorified as heroes or mourned over as martyrs. The final paragraph of the book contains the second suggestion, and it is one that should be heeded by friends of the victims of melancholy: "Every threat to commit suicide, uttered especially by those who are depressed, worried, or cut off from health, should be seriously regarded, and deemed quite sufficient ground for more than ordinary care and vigilance in their regard on the part of relatives and friends."

From several striking examples quoted by Dr. O'Dea, and from what ordinary observation teaches, one cannot but be impressed by the fact that certain mental constitutions are incubated with the desire for self-destruction, simply by hearing the subject in some form discussed. Is it not possible that books of this sort may help to disseminate the germs of the disease which they aim to eradicate?

**AROUND THE WORLD TOUR OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS: A Universal Survey.** By WILLIAM E. BAINBRIDGE, S. 353. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.

**ROUND THE WORLD LETTERS.** By LUCY S. BAIRD. S. 352. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co.

Mr. Baird's book has an attraction for the general reader. Those, however, who are interested in the development and the morale of foreign missions will find in it divers details which may please and instruct them. The author made his two years' tour with special reference to missions, and gives exhaustive descriptions of his examination of the work of evangelization at home and abroad. He has considered his subject in every possible light, political and social as well as religious, and writes as far as may be without denominational spirit. There are many tiresome irrelevancies in the book and a great deal of unnecessary sermonizing; and the style is commonplace. The facts, however, which Mr. Baird presents, gathered as they are from personal observation, will probably prove valuable to clergymen and others who desire to urge the claims of missions.

It is a pity that they who go down to the sea in ships and disport themselves in tours about the world should not realize that the countries they visit are no longer unknown lands, and that their everyday adventures have no interest for those outside their circle of personal friends. Mrs. Baird writes with ease and with occasional vivacity, and her letters give, no doubt, much entertainment to the readers of the provincial newspaper in which they first appeared.

**THE COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS AND GEOGRAPHY.** Modern History, Classical and Physical. Com. 100. Map. One descriptive letterpress by JAMES BRYCE, M. A., LL. D., WILLIAM F. COLLIER, LL. D., and LEONARD SCHMITZ, LL. D. Folio. New-York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

As its title indicates, this work purports to give an encyclopedic view of the earth and all the peoples thereof. That it succeeds in so doing is undeniable; but the absence of a date from the title page suggests a doubt as to the precise era in the world's history of which a view is given. Closer examination proves this doubt to be well-grounded, for the maps and letterpress bear inherent evidence of not having been brought down to the latest date. The former do not correctly indicate the changes made in the boundaries of Asiatic Turkey at the close of the war of 1877-78; nor is any intimation given of the location or existence of Leedville, Princeton and other important places in the United States. To Rhode Island is given only one capital, while Connecticut is allowed to retain two. Georgia's capital is said to be Milledgeville; and Florida's, Atlanta. New-Mexico is erected into a State, and Alaska is made an organized Territory, with the seat of Government at Sitka. There are other similar and equally inexcusable errors. The letterpress, comprising 156 pages, is replete with valuable information, but gives no mere recent census of the United States than that of 1870. In these respects, the work is disappointing.

In others it proves eminently satisfactory. The one-hundred pages on Modern Geography, by James Bryce, A. M., LL. D., describe sixty large, well-engraved maps, and give in concise form accounts of the topography, physical features, history, politics, social and industrial conditions and statistics, etc., of all the countries of the globe. The last four of these maps give a number of small and out-of-the-way places, such as Heligoland, Aden, St. Helena, the Bermudas, Barbados, etc., on an unusually large scale. Then follow ten pages and sixteen maps of historical geography, showing the changes wrought in the political divisions of the world at various important epochs. This portion of the work was prepared by William F. Collier, LL. D., and with the following fourteen pages and fourteen maps, prepared by Leonard Schmitz, LL. D., illustrating the geography and history of classical times, forms perhaps the most interesting and valuable feature of the volume. The remainder of the work is taken up by eight railway maps of Europe, four astronomical charts, and twenty maps and charts illustrating physical geography; thirty-two pages of letterpress on physical geography, with numerous illustrations; and, finally, thirty-eight closely printed pages of index, giving the latitude and longitude of all places indicated on the modern, historical and classical maps. The work is well printed and well bound, and will be found of value as a volume of reference, though, for evident reasons, its worth will be greater to Europeans than to Americans, and to students of ancient than of modern history.

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